

STATINTL

The Philosophical Cloak and Dagger Man

By Victor Wilson

WASHINGTON.

ALLEN WELSH DULLES, the Central Intelligence Agency's beleaguered director, is probably the only official of his stature in this capital who has to take his lumps in absolute silence when foreign adventures go wrong.

He likewise has the dubious distinction of being the only top government executive here who gets absolutely no public credit when things in his area go right. (Perhaps the President, and a very few others atop the Federal apex, may pat his shoulder, in private, for a success.)

Mr. Dulles, however, is a philosophical man. After many years in the cloak and dagger field, or on its periphery, he is more or less resigned to this situation, the nature of his business being what it is—secret.

In recent years, the Dulles head remained bowed, with lips buttoned, to hurricanes of criticism over alleged failure of his C. I. A. to foresee, and give warning on, the Leftist coup in Iraq; Russia's Sputnik lofting; the Suez invasion, and the explosive consequences of a shot-down U-2 spy-plane on the eve of an Eisenhower-Khrushchev conference. (Only a few do, and should know, whether Mr. Dulles did foresee and forewarn on these events.)

Then came the Cuban fiasco.

The hurricane of criticism over that one is still raging. Its end result may well be the replacement of Mr. Dulles, whether the fault lies with him or not.

The Dulles lips remain publicly sealed on Cuba. But the man is human. So the C. I. A. released a news-tidbit which those in the know knew bore the hallmark—the style, if you will—of Allen Welsh Dulles.

The tidbit: The C. I. A. had nothing, positively nothing, to do with the abortive French rebellion in Algeria.

This was the head of the C. I. A. blowing off just a whisp of frustrated steam—but on a topic that could do no harm.

How do you create a mold that will produce a man to be the top intelligence man for the earth's most powerful nation? The directive of the National Security Council (N. S. C.) which created the C. I. A. under the National Security Act of 1947, said this man should coordinate the intelligence

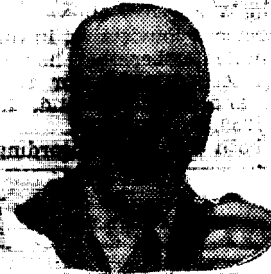
activities of the several government departments concerned; advise the N. S. C. on intelligence matters; make recommendations to the N. S. C.; correlate and evaluate intelligence; provide "appropriate dissemination" of it to proper government agencies, and perform missions for the N. S. C.

The first thinking was that such a man should be from the military. Four military men were utilized between 1947 and 1953, when Mr. Dulles, a civilian, took over. President Kennedy apparently thought he had done a good job, for Mr. Dulles was one of the first to be told he would stay on when Mr. Kennedy was inaugurated.

Family background and his own early upbringing would seem to have destined Mr. Dulles for diplomacy, not directing deeds of derring-do. True, his father was a Presbyterian minister. But on the paternal side, a relative had been ambassador to Britain in the Hayes Administration. And on the maternal side, another had been President Benjamin Harrison's Secretary of State.

Mr. Dulles (born April 7, 1893, at Watertown, N. Y.), evinced his own interest in foreign affairs at eight, when, in 1901, he wrote a critique of the Boer War, then going on. He attended public schools at Auburn, N. Y., the Ecole Alsattienne, at Paris, and then won a B. A. at Princeton in 1914.

He spent a year in the Far East and India, teaching English for a while in an Indian school at Allahabad. He then returned to Princeton, received an M. A. there in 1916, and that same year joined the diplomatic corps, being assigned as a secretary to the embassy at Vienna, and later to a similar post at Berne, Switzerland.



The next few years found him serving at the World War I Paris Peace Conference; the American Embassy at Berlin; on a special commission for post-war Germany, and as chief of the State Department's Near East desk. Still later, he served his government at naval and disarmament conferences at Geneva. In 1926, after he won a law degree at George Washington University, the State Department offered him the legation counselor post at Peking at \$8,000 a year, a salary he was already earning.

Mr. Dulles thought he was worth more, but his superiors didn't, so he quit. There was quite a bit of newspaper editorial discussion about low diplomatic pay, a topic still being discussed, with little done about it.

Deciding that law was his best bet, Mr. Dulles joined the New York law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, of which his eldest brother, the late John Foster Dulles, later Secretary of State, was a partner. One might say this step led Allen Dulles to intelligence work.

For it happened that the law firm had many European financial clients, and Mr. Dulles helped service them, with lots of foreign travel. When the late Gen. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan created the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.) after America entered World War II, he wanted particularly men who knew European finance and "strategic areas." Allen Dulles was a natural candidate.

It was a good choice. His exploits as an O.S.S. type in Switzerland and Italy are still talked of with awe, and the rewards included the American Medal of Merit, a Presidential Citation, the Medal of Freedom, Belgium's Leopold Cross, and France's Legion of Honor.

Mr. Dulles has been married for forty-one years to the former Clover Todd, and they have two daughters and a son. At sixty-eight, Mr. Dulles carries his six-foot frame erectly, though his gray hair is thinning and his tennis and golf aren't what they were. But he still wields an expert fishing rod.

Research shows few anecdotes or jokes about the C.I.A.'s chief. Maybe that's why one writer described him as "scholarly, self-contained and discreet," and another as a "judgmental man."